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March 6, 2020

The Honorable Robert L. Wilkie
Secretary of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20420

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I write to request information related to a news report stating that some employees at the Kansas City Veterans Affairs Medical Center (KC VAMC) have allegedly faced “years of discrimination, hostile work environments and retaliation at the site.”¹ The KC VAMC is crucial to the care of thousands of veterans in Kansas and Missouri, and the employees that choose to serve these veterans by implementing that care deserve to be treated with respect and dignity. I expect the department to thoroughly investigate the allegations in the report and instill in the VA a culture that is free from abuse.

You can assist my committee’s own review of this matter by providing the following information:

1. The nature and timing of each employee complaint received by the VA in the past ten years related to discrimination, a hostile work environment, and retaliation at the KC VAMC, the components within the VA that reviewed each of those complaints, and the outcome of each review.
2. A description of actions the VA has taken in the past ten years regarding discrimination, hostile work environments, and retaliation within the KC VAMC, including personnel actions.
3. A copy of the VA’s policies regarding discrimination, hostile work environments, and retaliation.
4. A description of the resources available to VA employees who may have been discriminated against, including any education efforts by the VA to direct employees to these resources.
5. A copy of the information made available to employees describing employee rights and remedies related to discrimination, hostile work environments, and retaliation, including information on how to report related adverse actions.

¹ Jackson, Sharifa. “Former, Current Kansas City VA Hospital Employees Speak out on Years of Alleged Racial Discrimination.” FOX 4 Kansas City WDAF-TV | News, Weather, Sports, FOX4, 3 Mar. 2020, fox4kc.com/news/former-current-kansas-city-va-hospital-employees-speak-out-on-years-of-alleged-racial-discrimination/.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Should you have any further questions, please contact Mark Crowley on my staff.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Jerry Moran in blue ink.

Jerry Moran
Chairman